

More than \$454,000 Federal Grant Will Establish High-Speed Internet Access to 50 Homes and Businesses in the Ewing Community

10 New Computer Workstations Will be Added to the Lonesome Pine Library

(Washington, DC) - U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Utilities Service, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$454,558 to LENOWISCO, Inc. to establish access to high-speed broadband services in the Ewing community of Lee County.

Residents and businesses in the Town of Ewing currently have no access to high-speed broadband services. Rather, local residents and businesses are reliant on much slower methods of accessing the Internet to conduct business or for personal use. With the federal funding announced today, LENOWISCO will deploy fiber optic cable from its Internet backbone, across the "last mile," into 40 homes and 10 businesses in the Town of Ewing and the surrounding area.

In addition to the broadband services which will become available, the federal Rural Utilities Service grant will be used to purchase 10 new computer workstations to expand the public Internet access site at the Lonesome Pine Regional Library Community Computer Center in Ewing. The federal funds will also allow the computer center to provide on site instruction and technical support in the use of broadband Internet service, ranging from beginner computer classes and Internet introduction for senior citizens to advanced e-commerce strategies for businesses as well as referrals to online courses available at local community colleges. The funding will also provide free broadband service for two years for the Ewing Elementary School and the Western Lee County Health Clinic. Boucher noted that the new broadband services will greatly improve the Internet access in the Ewing Community.

"The economic development of Southwest Virginia is my top priority. With the federal funding I have announced today, high-speed Internet services will soon become available to the residents and business owners of the Ewing community. This is another step in bringing broadband services to all of Lee County and will open many new doors to expand and stimulate the County's economy," Boucher concluded.

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